

SITUATION REPORT NO. 18
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005
DATE: May 1, 2001 TIME: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North continues to recede at all gauging points in North Dakota. However, flood warnings remain in effect for Wahpeton, Drayton and Pembina, where the river is expected to drop below the moderate flood stage by May 5 at these locations. The river today measured 12.8 feet at Wahpeton; moderate flood stage is 12 feet. The river crested a third time during this flood event at Wahpeton on April 25. Preliminary data indicates the crest level was 13.88 feet. The first crest, 16.96 feet, occurred on April 9, and the second, 16.21 feet, took place on April 13. At Fargo, the river measured 26.4 feet today, 0.6 feet below moderate flood stage. The river at Grand Forks has dropped below its 40-foot moderate flood stage, measuring 35.1 feet today. Hydrologists expect the river to drop below its 28-foot flood stage by May 5. Downstream at Drayton, the river measured 39.9 feet today and is expected to drop below its 38-foot moderate flood stage by May 4. On May 5, the river is expected to drop below the 47-foot moderate flood stage at Pembina. The level measured 48.5 feet today.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been reducing outflows to match inflows into Lake Traverse on the Bois de Sioux River, upstream of Wahpeton.

State Water Commission engineers reported that a small amount of water is beginning to flow from east Devils Lake to Stump Lake. As it leaves Devils Lake, some water is moving into storage areas along the Jerusalem Coulee, as well as directly to Stump Lake. There may also be some local runoff contributing to water levels in the area of east Devils Lake, Jerusalem Coulee and Stump Lake. It is expected that as the Jerusalem Coulee fills, the flows into Stump Lake will increase. The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.33 feet this afternoon.

A logjam has been building on a Cass County Highway bridge that spans the Red River. Officials are evaluating options for removing the logjam.

Benson County Emergency Management reported that lake levels on the west end of Devils Lake appear to be impacting the county more seriously than anticipated at this early stage of the lake rise for this year. At least three farmsteads have been isolated. There have been impacts on previously placed

dikes in the Grahams Island area, and at least one road has been washed out. The cities of York and Oberon have reported that roads are saturated due to high water tables. Traffic and spring runoff have also contributed to road damages. Throughout the county, ground water problems include contamination of wells by drain fields and damage to the foundation of structures. Floodwaters are limiting access to homes, livestock and wells and are encroaching on roads and bridges.

Two state highway sites remain closed to traffic because of floodwaters. Those two sites, located in Pembina County, are N.D. Highway 66, at mile marker 138 to the Red River and N.D. Highway 5, at mile marker 335 to the Red River. The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported debris and water on N.D. Highway 200 at mile markers 230 and 231, three miles east of McClusky. Water is also on the highway at mile marker 257, west of Chaseley. Other highways with water on the roadway and where traffic is allowed include: N.D. Highway 54, I-29 to Oslo; N.D. Highway 11, Fairmount to the Red River at mile markers 180-182; N.D. Highway 14, at mile marker 69, 4 ½ miles south of Anamoose; N.D. Highway 3, at mile marker 123, 10 miles north of Tuttle; N.D. Highway 36, at mile marker 34, four miles west of Tuttle; and N.D. Highway 59, from I-29 (near Pembina) to the Minnesota border.

North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported that the starting date for fieldwork was April 29, behind both last year's start of April 17 and the five-year average of April 24. The cool, wet spring has hampered planting progress.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: American Red Cross disaster operations for DR-655, North Dakota floods, showed a total operational commitment of \$101,009 by April 24. Seventeen people were housed at four shelters. Workers at two fixed and 11 mobile feeding sites served 3,847 meals and snacks. Twenty-eight clean-up kits have been distributed, and two disaster welfare inquiries were addressed. In-kind contributions amounted to \$15,956.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Based on initial reports of damage from eastern and central North Dakota, Governor John Hoeven has upgraded his emergency declaration of April 6, 2001, to a statewide disaster declaration. With this action, he has also requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist state and local officials in conducting a Preliminary Damage Assessment to evaluate flood damages for potential federal assistance. Serious flooding occurred this spring along the Red River of the North and its tributaries, the Souris River and its tributaries, and the James River. Additionally, forecasters for the National Weather Service expect Devils Lake to reach record levels as it continues its historic rise. State and local officials have conducted initial assessments in 22 counties and three tribal reservations. These assessments indicate losses of disastrous proportions amounting to over \$10 million in central and eastern North

Dakota. These losses include public infrastructure and homes, as well as expenses for protective measures and debris clearance. Additionally, damages are imminent this summer in the Devils Lake Basin. Counties and tribal lands included so far in the assessment were Barnes, Benson, Cass, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Kidder, McHenry, McLean, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sheridan, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Wells, Spirit Lake Nation, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, and Three Affiliated Tribes.

The city of Fargo is maintaining approximately 20 pumps throughout the city. Workers began removing temporary levees within city limits. Cass County workers were scheduled to remove a clay levee in the Round Hill subdivision. Contractors have been assisting both the city and county with removal of sandbags.

Sandoun Township in Ransom County obtained a permit from the N.D. State Water Commission to open the McLeod Drain. Opening the drain will diminish the impact of floodwaters on the residents of McLeod. The permit requires the township to pay a fee to the Richland County Water Board for opening the drain.

Staff from the State Water Commission met on May 1 with the Pierce County Water Board to discuss flooding on Antelope Lake. Floodwaters are threatening three homes.

Officials in Nelson, Pierce, Towner and Wells Counties have issued disaster declarations. Officials the Spirit Lake Tribe and for the cities of Bergen and Deering in McHenry County have signed emergency declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director